

and tail is of a pale slate colour, the apical half of each scale having a red tinge. The under surface is of a slaty white, excepting the head and neck which are barred and spotted with black, and the extremity of the tail which is yellow. Abdominal shields 187. Sub-caudals 90-90. Total length 10 inches, tail $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches, head 5 lines.

I have only one specimen of this very beautiful snake. It is very small and slender, and yet I think it is full-grown. The depth of its head and its lurid orange mantle give it a most formidable and venomous appearance, and the comparatively large size of the fangs and poison gland would lead to the belief that the appearance is not deceptive.

The collection contains also two specimens of a *Morelia* of small size and reddish brown colour, with brown bands, which I cannot believe to be young specimens of *M. variegata*, but until I have seen more specimens at various stages of their growth, I will not attempt to characterise them as a species.

Description of a species of *Edoliosoma* from New Ireland, supposed to be the adult of *Ceblepyris schisticeps* (*Homb. et Jacq.*)

By E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., &c., &c.

EDOLIOSOMA SCHISTICEPS.

Ceblepyris schisticeps, *Homb. et Jacq.*, *Voy. au Pole Sud.*, pl. X., fig. 1, *juv.*

Adult male.—Forehead, crown of the head, nape and upper part of the neck shining lead-blue, lower part of the back of the neck brown, tinged with the same color, back and scapularies brown tinged with rufous, becoming deeper in tint on the rump and upper tail-coverts, which are light rufous or chestnut brown; wings blackish-brown, the upper-coverts and secondaries broadly, and the primaries narrowly, margined on the outer webs with chestnut; tail feathers obscure reddish-brown, almost blackish at the

base, the two centre feathers reddish brown, all tipped and margined with light chestnut, the outer ones to a greater extent than the inner, and having their outer webs all chestnut; the throat and the whole of the under surface of the body, under wing- and tail-coverts light chestnut, the wing feathers below broadly margined with the same tint on their inner webs, but towards the base only on the primaries; lores black, sides of the head and ear-coverts light chestnut margined with lead-blue, remains of a faint line of buff over the eye, but not extending beyond it; eye-lashes buff. Total length 9·5; wing 4·7, tail 4·4, tarsus 0·9; bill from forehead 1 inch, from nostril 0·7, from gape 1·1; bill, legs and feet, black.

Female.—The female differs only in being of a much lighter tint on the under surface, and duller above, and in having a well defined line of buff extending from the nostril above the lores and eyes to the back of the head; the ear-coverts are washed with buff.

Young male.—Of those specimens apparently young males, the under surface is nearly as dark as the adult male above described; one has the throat and whole of the under surface of the body barred with transverse wavy lines of blackish, generally two lines on each feather; in another more adult these lines are reduced to triangular shaped dots. The under mandible horn-brown at the base, the upper blackish, the legs and feet are of a bluish-grey. The measurements are about the same in all the specimens, the tail in one, being only 4·5 inches.

This is I believe the *Ceblepyris schisticeps* of Hombron and Jacquinot (*Voyage au Pole Sud.*, pl. X., fig. 1), and my only excuse for redescribing it here is, that the *young only* was previously known. Dr. P. L. Sclater refers to a specimen ("Edoliosoma, sp. inc. ♀"), in his notes on Mr. Brown's collection from New Ireland (P. Z. S., 1877, p. 101), but if I remember rightly this was a young of the present species.

Hab. Duke of York Islands and New Ireland.

I trust the above descriptions, taken from a fine series in the Australian Museum, will prove of some use to Ornithologists.

The specimens in our Museum, I selected from the large collection made by the Rev. George Brown and Mr. Cockerell, in New Ireland, and the adjacent Islands.

Description of a new species of *Pachycephala* from the Gulf of Carpentaria.

By E. P. RAMSAY, F.L.S., &c., &c.

PACHYCEPHALA PALLIDA, *sp. nov.*

Adult male.—All the upper surface dull slate-grey, lighter on the upper tail-coverts, and base of the outer webs of the tail feathers; the wings and tail feathers blackish brown, margined with ashy white, a little broader on the secondaries and upper wing-coverts, the feathers of the crown of the head and forehead with a narrow line of a blackish brown down the centre; throat to the chest white; lower portion of the ear-coverts a line down the side of the neck, joining a narrow band of the same color across the chest, black; remainder of the under surface white, faintly tinged with light cream color.

The female is the same in plumage above, as the male, with a faint tinge of olive; under surface white, washed with a light creamy tint on the breast and sides; all the throat, sides of the face from the angle of the mouth, the chest, breast and flanks, strongly striated down the centre of the feathers with blackish brown, under tail-coverts white with a narrow line of brown down the centre of each feather. Both sexes are of the same dimensions. Total length 5·5 inches; wing, 3·5 inches; tail, 2·8 inches; tarsus, 0·8 inch; bill, from forehead, 0·5 inch; from nostrils, 0·35 inch; from gape, 0·7 inch.

This species is undoubtedly closely allied to *P. falcata* of Gould; it is, however, slightly smaller, and wants the rufous under surface of that species, and may at once be distinguished from it by having the *pectoral band extending upwards to the base of, and joined to, the ear-coverts*, which Mr. Gould distinctly states is not the case in his *P. falcata*.

Habitat. Gulf of Carpentaria and Southward to George Town.